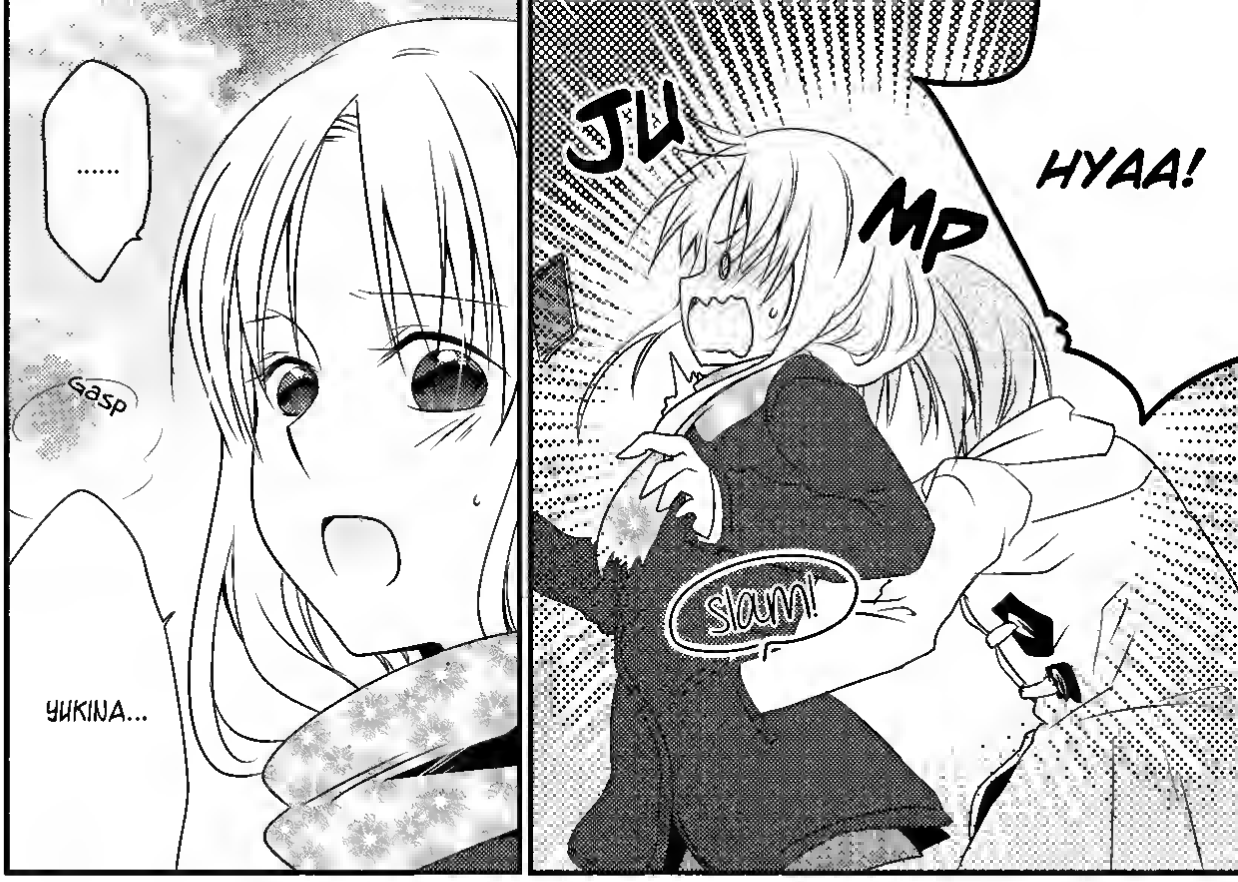
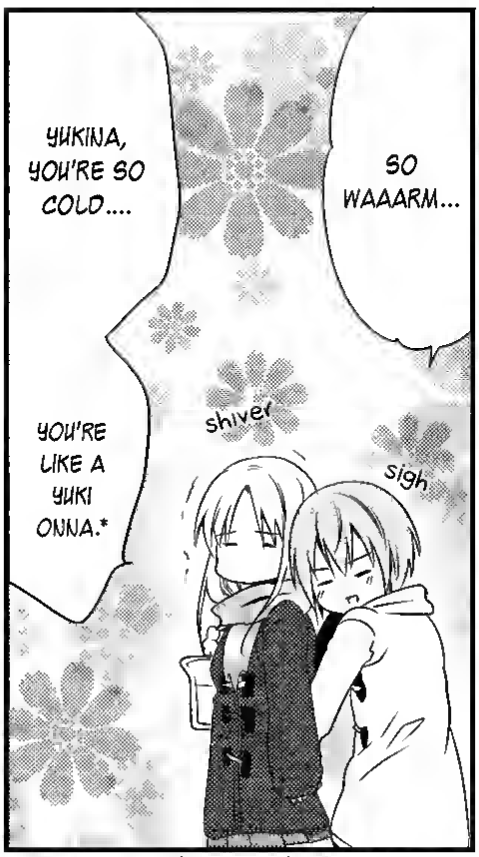
A White Sigh, Like a Burn Wound
Within me,
there is a secret
I can't tell my best friend.





NOTE LITERALLY MEANING 'SNOW WOMAN.' A YUKI ONNA IS A MYTHICAL SPIRIT THAT TAKES THE FORM OF AN ICE-COLD WOMAN WHO LURES WINTER TRAVELERS TO THEIR DEATHS

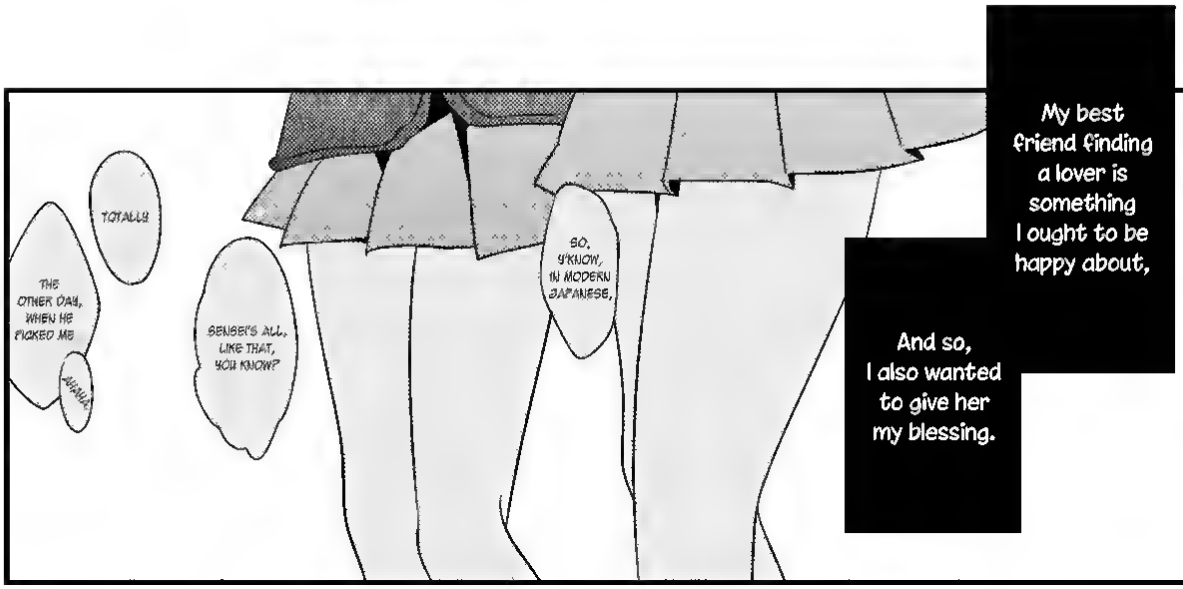
...TOUKO,
YOU'VE BEEN LEAVING BEFORE ME A LOT THESE DAYS,
HAVEN'T YOU?
I'm keeping a secret.
HMM... WELL, THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
MESSING AROUND IN THE CLASS-ROOM
.THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS

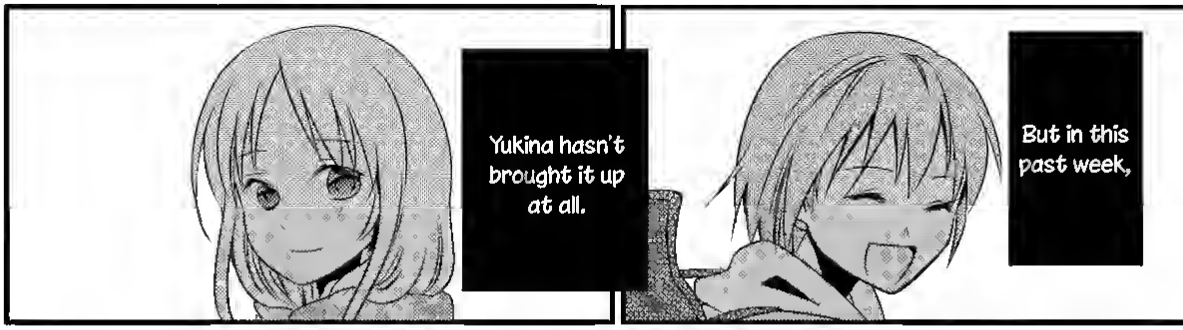
It happened last week.
THAT TEACHER TALKED FOR SO LONG...
MAYBE YUKINA HAS ALREADY LEFT.
tap
tap
tap
I LOVE YOU.
PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME.
WOAH... HE'S ASKING HER OUT...
YUKINA.

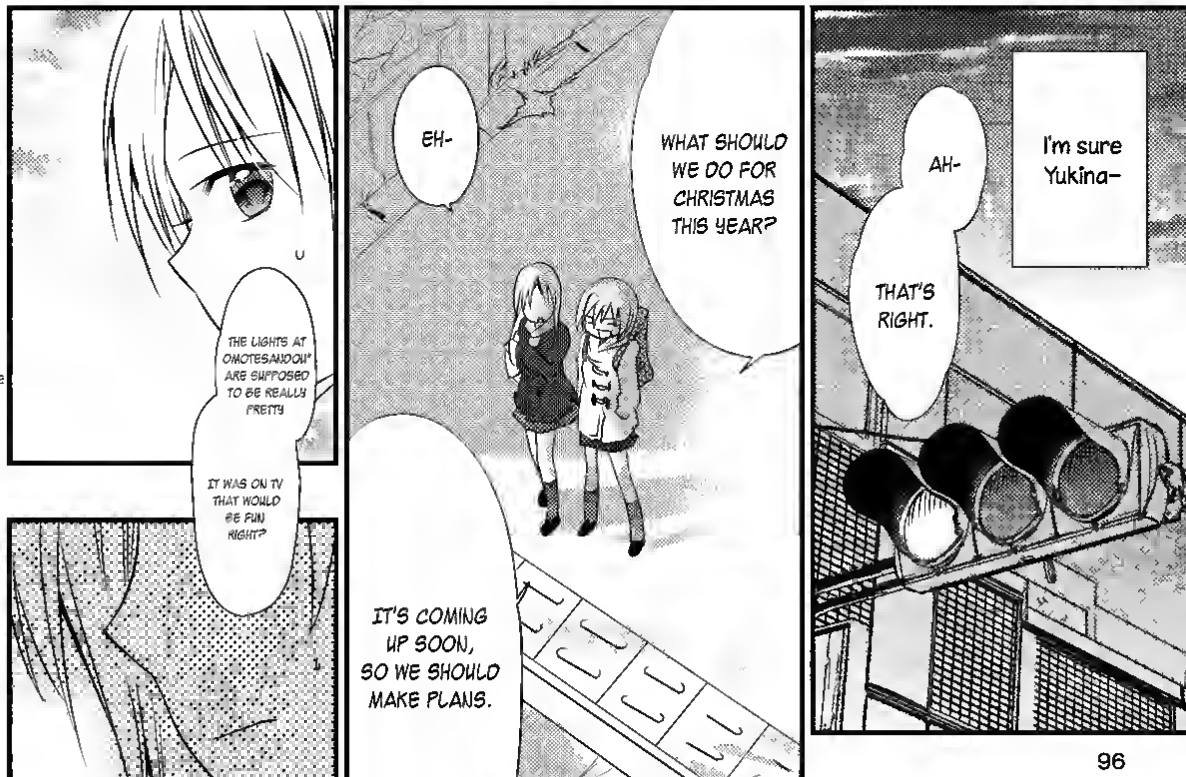
.....
OKAY.

THANK GOD...
Ba-thump
Ba-thump
FOR REAL?
YEAH

when my best friend became his.
is that I accidentally witnessed the instant
My secret
clench

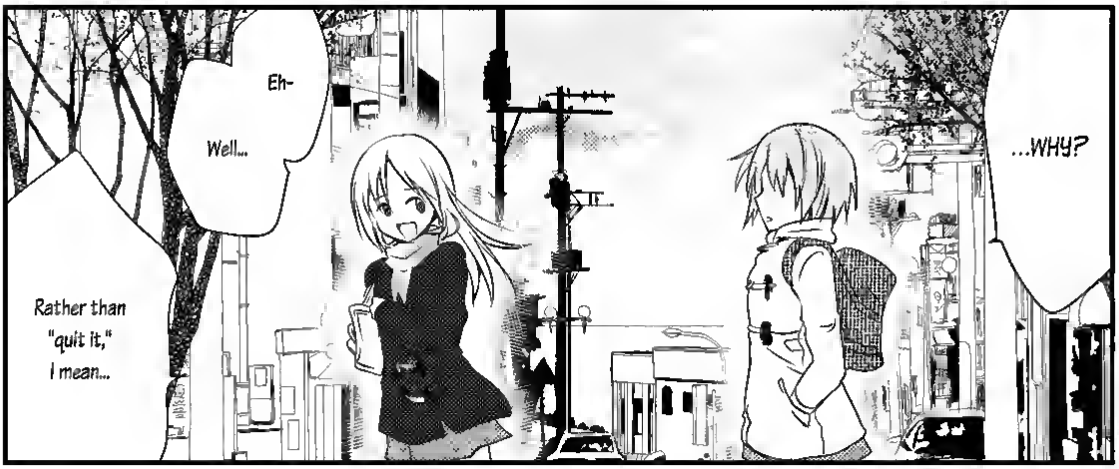

My best friend finding a lover is something I ought to be happy about,
And so, I also wanted to give her my blessing.
SO, Y'KNOW, IN MODERN JAPANESE,
SENSEI'S ALL, LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW?
THE OTHER DAY, WHEN HE FUCKED ME
TOTALLY
AHAHA



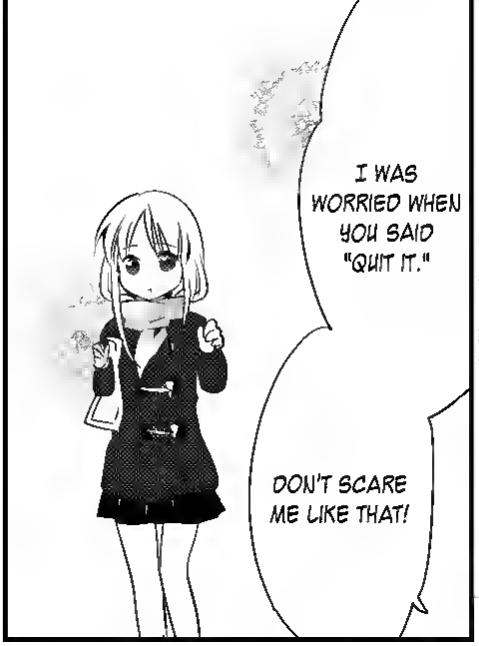

I'm sure Yukina-
AH-
THAT'S RIGHT.
EH-
WHAT SHOULD WE DO FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR?
IT'S COMING UP SOON, SO WE SHOULD MAKE PLANS.
THE LIGHTS AT OMOTESANDOU* ARE SUPPOSED TO BE REALLY PRETTY
IT WAS ON TV THAT WOULD BE FUN RIGHT?

NOTE
OMOTESANDOU IS A HIGH-END SHOPPING AND TOURISM AVENUE IN TOKYO AND IS ELABORATELY DECORATED FOR VARIOUS HOLIDAYS

"I'm sure she's just worried about me,"
is what I thought.
SHOULDN'T WE QUIT IT, THIS YEAR?
CHRISTMAS, THAT IS.


Eh-
Well...
Rather than "quit it," I mean...
...WHY?

THAT'S WHY I JUST DON'T KNOW IF I CAN JOIN YOU THIS TIME...
THIS YEAR, APPARENTLY, MY WHOLE FAMILY IS GETTING TOGETHER,
SO, LIKE, THERE'S GONNA BE A BUNCH OF PEOPLE OVER.


I WAS WORRIED WHEN YOU SAID "QUIT IT."
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!

OH.
SO IT'S BECAUSE YOU CAN'T MAKE IT!

.....
SORRY!

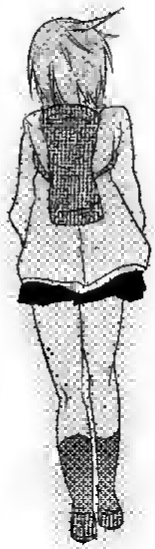
C'mon...

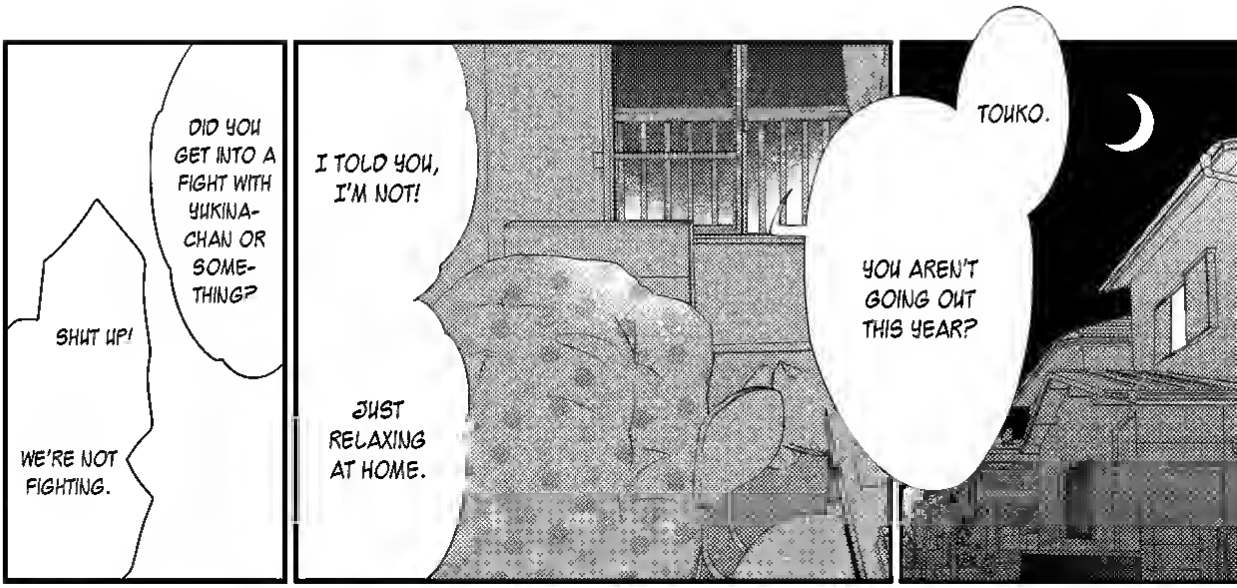
That's a relief.
I was able to convince her.
Sorry, sorry!
Ahaha.

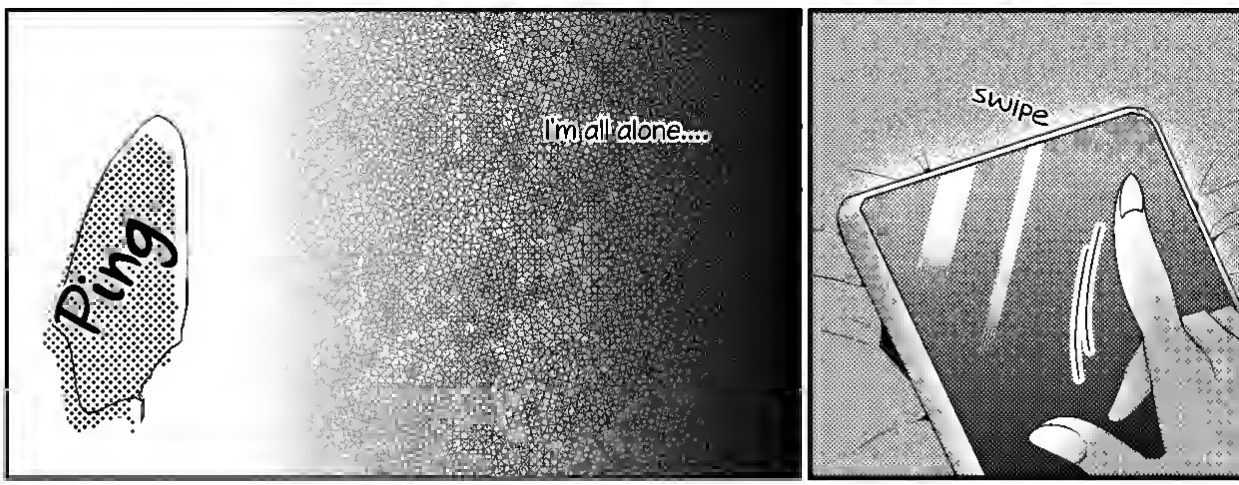
Before I make
Yukina look after me
any longer,

I have to be
the one to leave her.

From now on,
he will be the person
by Yukina's side.

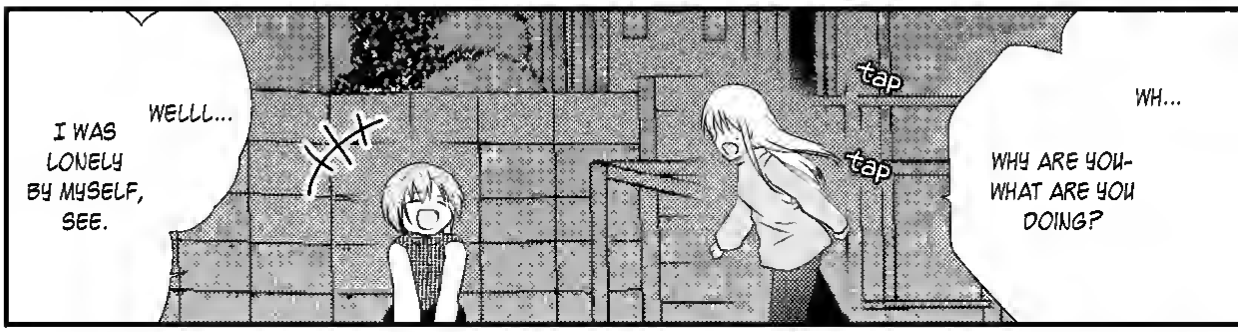



TOUKO.
YOU AREN'T GOING OUT THIS YEAR?
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT!
JUST RELAXING AT HOME.
DID YOU GET INTO A FIGHT WITH YUKINA-CHAN OR SOME-THING?
SHUT UP!
WE'RE NOT FIGHTING.


Ping
I'm all alone....
swipe

From: Yukina
I'm in front of your house! Can you come out?
CLANG
JUMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

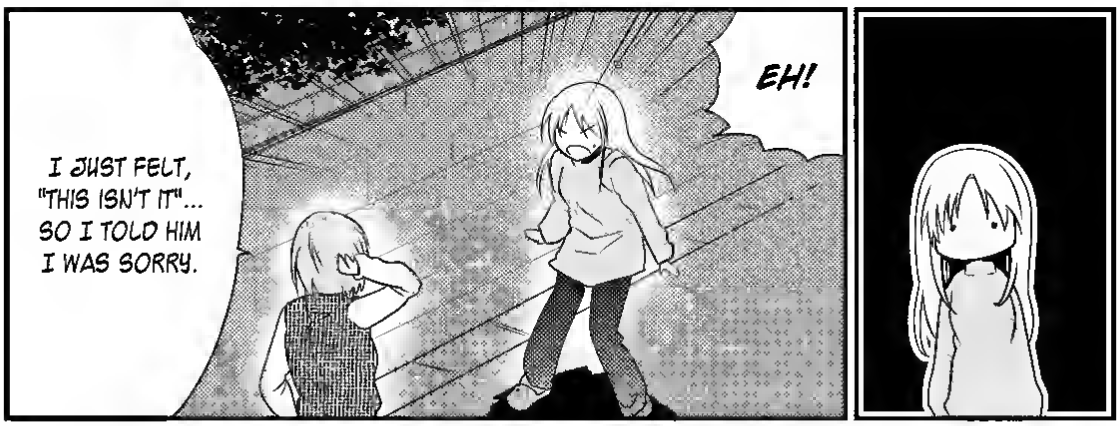
YO!


WELLL...
I WAS LONELY BY MYSELF, SEE.
tap
tap
WH...
WHY ARE YOU- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WAIT, NO ONE TO HANG OUT WITH...?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR BOYFRIEND?
SINCE YOU'RE HAVING A PARTY, I WONDERED IF I COULD COME BY.
I DON'T HAVE ANYBODY TO HANG OUT WITH EXCEPT YOU, TOUKO.
stands

LIAR! SINCE WHEN!?
SORRY.
I KNEW ABOUT IT.
.....
EH-
BOYFRIEND? ...WHAT-
YOU MEAN...?
Ah
.....
I SEE.
Flustered
Flustered
I accidently saw when he asked you out...
But,
you never said anything, so I couldn't bring it up either...
.....
SO THAT'S WHY YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH ME THIS YEAR.
GROAN

WE BROKE UP.
I TURNED HIM DOWN.

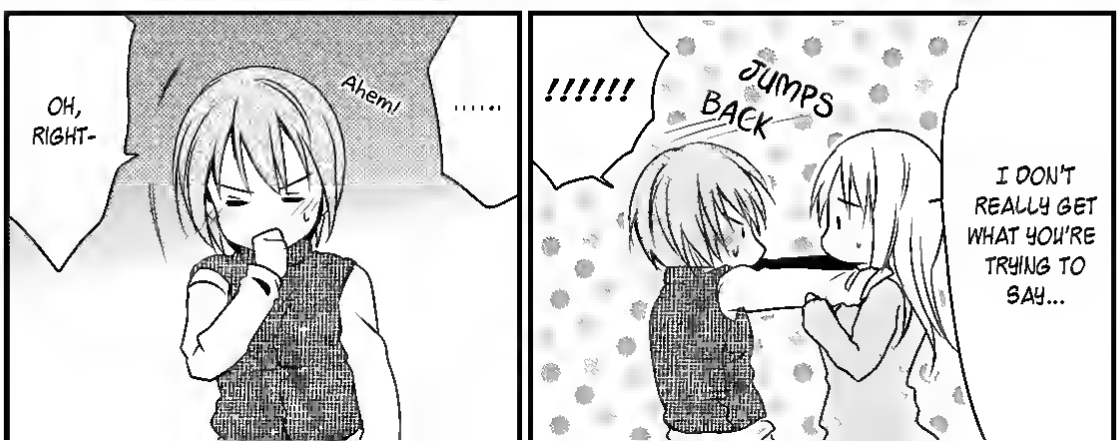

EH!
I JUST FELT, "THIS ISN'T IT"... SO I TOLD HIM I WAS SORRY.

tap
.....
TOUKO.
TH-
"THIS ISN'T IT".... THEN...?

squeeze
...IT'S LIKE FISH.
THEY SAY THAT WHEN A FISH IS IN CONTACT WITH A HUMAN FOR TOO LONG, IT GETS BURNED.

SINCE THAT'S THE CASE... I WONDER,
WOULDN'T IT BE THE SAME FOR A MERMAID OR SAY, A YUKI ONNA? WOULDN'T THE HUMAN BODY BE SO HOT IT BURNS?
HUH...?
TO A FISH, A HUMAN'S BODY TEMPERATURE IS JUST TOO HIGH, YOU SEE.

BUT IF IT WERE THE WARMTH OF THE PERSON YOU LIKED, YOU'D BE ABLE TO ENDURE THE BURNING-OR RATHER, MAYBE YOU'D SEE IT AS PROOF THAT YOU HAD TOUCHED... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
.....
YUKINA,


OH, RIGHT-
Ahem!
.....
!!!!!!
JUMPS BACK
I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY...

sigh

TOUKO,

THE TRUTH IS
YOU'RE THE ONE I LIKE.

THAT GUY'S TEMPERATURE
WASN'T RIGHT.
I'VE BEEN HIDING THESE FEELINGS FOR SO LONG, YOU SEE.
THAT'S WHEN I KNEW FOR SURE. IF IT'S NOT TOUKO'S WARMTH,
I DECIDED TO KEEP IT A SECRET,
THEN THERE'S NO POINT.
BUT IT WAS HOPELESS!

TOUKO,
I LIKE YOU!

...Yukina's body is cold.

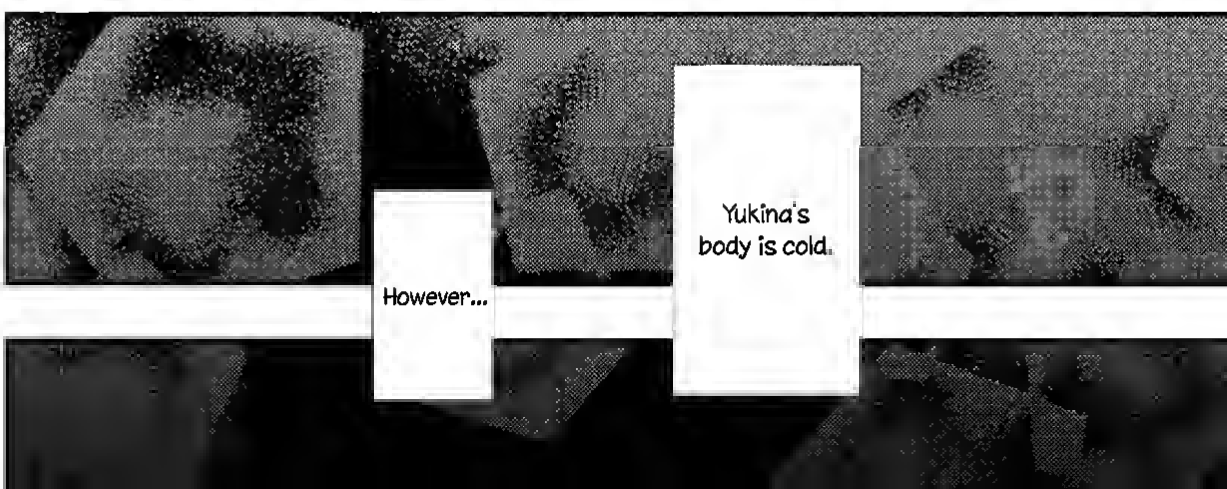
That cold

like water or snow,

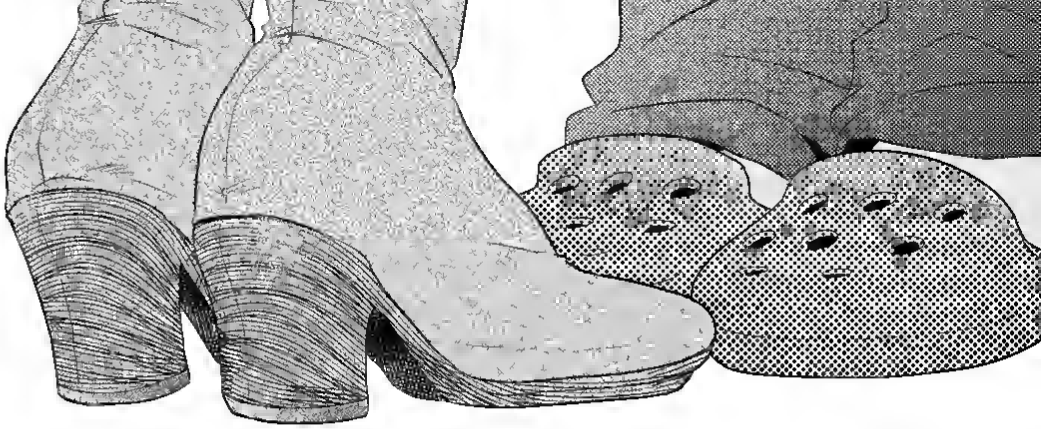
is seeping in,

penetrating

my body's core.



Her breath is hot enough that it seems to burn.
My face
is hot as well.



And just like that,

in an instant,
the "secret" held
in my chest resolved
into love.

ぎじしき
ミニクレッジト

RAINBOW

SECRET

A White Sigh, Like a Burn Wound

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Editor: musicgod96
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& Schuyguy

RAINBOW SECRET

BY RAKUJI TARAHI